

What is claimed is:

1. An alarm unit, comprising:  
a flash circuit having a flashtube for generating a flash; and  
5 an application specific integrated circuit (ASIC) coupled to said flash circuit, for triggering said flash.
2. The alarm unit of claim 1, further comprising:  
a switch, coupled to said ASIC, where said switch having a plurality of  
10 selectable positions representative of a plurality of intensity settings, wherein said flash has an intensity that is in accordance with a selected position of said switch.
3. The alarm unit of claim 2, wherein said plurality of intensity settings  
15 comprise four intensity settings.
4. The alarm unit of claim 1, further comprising:  
a current limiting circuit, coupled to said ASIC, where said current limiting circuit limits an input current level.  
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5. The alarm unit of claim 4, wherein said current limiting circuit continuously senses said input current level.
6. The alarm unit of claim 1, further comprising:  
25 a DC to DC converter, coupled to said ASIC, where said DC to DC boost converter provides over voltage protection.
7. The alarm unit of claim 1, wherein said ASIC is deployed in an eighteen-pin package.  
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8. The alarm unit of claim 1, wherein said ASIC is deployed in a sixteen-pin package.

9. The alarm unit of claim 1, wherein said ASIC is deployed in an eight-pin package.
10. The alarm unit of claim 1, wherein said flash circuit further comprises a  
5 voltage doubler.
11. The alarm unit of claim 1, wherein said ASIC provides a charge cycle that is greater than 8 kilohertz.
- 10 12. The alarm unit of claim 1, further comprising:  
an audio circuit, coupled to said ASIC, where said audio circuit  
generates an audio warning signal.
13. The alarm unit of claim 11, wherein said ASIC selects an audio  
15 frequency for said audio warning signal.
14. The alarm unit of claim 1, further comprising:  
a synchronization detection circuit, coupled to said ASIC, where said  
synchronization detection circuit receives a synchronization signal to trigger  
20 said flash.
15. The alarm unit of claim 1, wherein said ASIC provides a transistor drive capability of greater than 7.3 volts.
- 25 16. An alarm unit, comprising:  
an audio circuit for generating an audio warning signal; and  
an application specific integrated circuit (ASIC) coupled to said audio  
circuit, for triggering said audio warning signal.
- 30 17. The alarm unit of claim 16, wherein said ASIC selects an audio  
frequency for said audio warning signal.